

GENERAL ORDERS }

No. 38

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 30 November 1965

GO 31/66 **THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION.** Award of the Presidential Unit Citation by the President of the United States of America to the following unit of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 194, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation as announced by President Lyndon B. Johnson on 27 October 1965 reads as follows:

THE 42D RANGER BATTALION. By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States I have today awarded The Presidential Unit Citation to the 42d Ranger Battalion, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, for extraordinary heroism in Vietnam. The 42d Ranger Battalion is cited for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in Bac Lieu Province, Vietnam on 13 May 1965. On this date the 42d Ranger Battalion was committed as part of a larger force in Operation Dan Chi 135, a search and destroy operation against a suspected Viet Cong battalion. At 1210 hours elements of the Battalion were heli-lifted into battle and made immediate contact with the fanatic forces of the provincial battalion of Soc Trang, an elite Viet Cong unit, which occupied well-prepared defensive fortifications. With undaunted courage and steadfast determination elements of the 42d Ranger Battalion immediately closed with the enemy in a fierce assault which overran a flank of the enemy position. As the Battalion continued its attack, heavy flanking fire was received from the right. The Battalion immediately redispersed to hold in the direction of attack, while taking aggressive action to eliminate the threat to the flank and rear. A courageous attempt to assault across the open field was halted by withering grazing fire. Repeated attempts by the attacking elements using fire and short rounds resulted in only slight advances against the fanatically defending insurgent forces. At 1335 hours another company of the Battalion was committed to assist in destroying the enemy. Although this unit also met with murderous fire from enemy machine guns which swept the open fields, steady pressure was maintained on the defending Viet Cong. With undaunted courage and indomitable fighting spirit, continuous fire and movement was used to steadily close on the enemy position. At 1735 hours the reserve element of the 42d Ranger Battalion was committed in a coordinated battalion assault to destroy the enemy. The assault by this unit was so resolute that the aggressor was routed from his emplacement and the flank was rolled up. The shock action and dogged determination of this unit destroyed the enemy's will to fight. Those enemy not killed or wounded fled the scene of battle. The gallant actions and victory of the 42d Ranger Battalion cost the lives of 11 of its members, with 22 others wounded in action. This highly effective combat operation was an eminent success and resulted in a body count of 114 insurgents killed, and a total of 59 VC weapons captured, for a favorable ten to one kill ratio. The actions of the 42d Ranger Battalion reflect conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit on the Republic of Vietnam.

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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

HAROLD K. JOHNSON,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

J. C. LAMBERT,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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